

10/654,767

SPECIFICATION

Please amend the first paragraph of the specification as follows:

This application is a continuation-in-part of United States application number 10/158,946 filed May 31, 2002, now United States patent number 6,709,230, issued on March 23, 2004.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 14 as follows:

The present invention may be embodied with a variety of materials provided that the two aggregate materials exhibit sufficiently different coefficients of thermal expansion so that thermal stresses generated there between during heating of the material result in a degree of micro cracking within the aggregation sufficient to achieve a desired degree of strain tolerance in the material. For example, the aggregate material having the higher CTE may be any of the rare earth oxides, tetragonal zirconia $t\text{-ZrO}_2$ (such as 8YSZ), alumina Al_2O_3 , magnesia MgO , or spinel MgAl_2O_4 , and/or the aggregate material having the lower CTE may be mullite $3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{SiO}_2$, $3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{SiO}_2$, zircon ZrSiO_4 , an alkaline earth aluminosilicate such as cordierite $2\text{MgO} \cdot 2\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 5\text{SiO}_2$, $2\text{MgO} \cdot 2\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 5\text{SiO}_2$ or celsian $\text{BaO} \cdot \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{SiO}_2$, $\text{BaO} \cdot \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{SiO}_2$, or a low CTE non-oxide such as silicon carbide SiC or silicon nitride Si_3N_4 .